

In The Claims:

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C1 7. (Twice Amended) A system for transferring image data to a service provider,  
comprising:

an image source; and

an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source  
by at least one of a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a  
form of removable storage, and responsively provide said image data to  
said service provider, said image pump being implemented separately  
from said image source for receiving said image data.

24. (Twice Amended) A method for transferring image data to a service provider,  
comprising the steps of:

capturing said image data utilizing an image source;

2 sending said image data from said image source to an image pump by at least  
one of a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of  
removable storage, said image pump being implemented separately from  
said image source for receiving said image data; and

providing said image data to said service provider by utilizing said image  
pump.

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48. (Once Amended) A method for transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising the steps of:

capturing image data utilizing an image source;

sending said image data from said image source to an image pump;

attaching customer account information to said image data;

sending said image data and said customer account information from said image pump to said service provider;

reviewing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy, said photography service provider determining whether said image data and said customer account information have one or more transmission errors after being transferred from said image pump, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to transmit said image data and said customer account information again if said one or more transmission errors are detected;

providing requested photography services by said service provider; and

returning a final product in the form of one or more photographs to a user,

said photography service provider then charging said user for said final product by referencing billing information from said customer account information.

49. (Once Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for transferring image data to a service provider, by performing the steps of:

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capturing image data utilizing an image source;  
sending said image data from said image source to an image pump, said image pump being implemented separately from said image source for receiving said image data; and  
providing said image data to said service provider by utilizing said image pump.

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51. (New) A system for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising:

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an image source for initially providing said image data; and  
an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source via source transfer means between said image source and said image pump, said image pump responsively providing said image data to said photography service provider via destination transfer means between said image pump and said photography service provider, said image pump being implemented in a non-integral manner that is physically separate from said image source for receiving said image data, said photography service provider responsively processing said image data to produce one or more corresponding photographic images.

52. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image source may be implemented as one of a digital camera, an Internet-enabled computer device, a scanner device, a cellular telephone, and a portable-personal-digital assistant device, said image source having a data attachment capability for attaching text data and audio data to said image data, said text data and said audio data including user commentary information regarding said image data.

c4 53. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said source transfer means allows said image source to download said image data to said image pump, said source transfer means being external to said image source and said image pump, and wherein said destination transfer means allows said image pump to upload said image data to said photography service provider, said destination transfer means being external to said image pump and said photography service provider.

54. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein said source transfer means includes a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately downloading said image data from said image source to said image pump, and wherein said destination transfer means includes a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately uploading said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider.

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55. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to present individual images from said image data on a local display device for viewing by a system user, said system user using a local input device to select one or more desired images from said individual images for uploading to said photography service provider, said system user also utilizing said image pump manager program to attach specific photographic processing instructions to said one or more desired images for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

56. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image source includes an image-source processor device that downloads and executes an image pump manager program from said image pump to present individual images from said image data on a local image-source display device for viewing by a system user, said system user using a local image-source input device to select one or more desired images from said individual images for uploading to said photography service provider, said system user also utilizing said image pump manager program to attach specific photographic processing instructions to said one or more desired images for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said image pump device being economically implemented without an internal processor device.

57. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump is economically implemented in a simplified configuration that initially downloads said image data from said image source, a system user then limiting user interactions only to signaling said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider by physically activating basic image-data transfer means, said image pump being implemented without a video display and an internal central processing unit, said image pump having only said basic image-data transfer means for purposes of user interactions with said system user.

58. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to attach customer account information to said image data for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said customer account information including a system user name, a system user address, a system user account number, and system user billing information.

59. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein a system user initially contacts said photography service provider to supply system user information, said photography service provider responsively generating said customer account information and sending said customer account information to said system user, who then locally stores said customer account information in an electronic format for access by said image pump manager program for attaching to said image data prior to uploading said image data to said photography service provider.

60. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein said photography service provider analyzes said image data and said customer account information for accuracy to determine whether said image data and said customer account information are acceptable after being transferred from said image pump via said destination transfer means, said photography service provider checking said image data for formatting errors and comparing said customer account information with local customer information records for account errors, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to transmit said image data and said customer account information again if one of said formatting errors and said account errors are detected.

61. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to convert said image data from said image source into a compatible data format for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

62. (New) A method for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising the steps of:

capturing image data by utilizing an image source;

providing said image data to an image pump that is integral with said image source;

converting said image data into an image data format that is compatible with said photography service provider by utilizing an image pump manager program;

attaching user-defined image selection information, user-defined photography processing instructions, and customer account information to said image data by utilizing said image pump manager program;

transferring said image data and said customer account information from said image pump to said service provider;

reviewing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy at said photography service provider;

providing requested services to said image data by said service provider; and

returning a final photograph product to a user.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source is implemented as one of a scanner device, a cellular telephone, a portable personal-digital-assistant device, and an Internet-enabled computer device that downloads said image data from an Internet source.



64. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to convert said image data into a compatible data format for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

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65. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to attach customer account information to said image data for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said customer account information including a system user name, a system user address, a system user account number, and system user billing information, said photography service provider analyzing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy to determine whether said image data and said customer account information are acceptable after being transferred from said image pump via said destination transfer means, said photography service provider checking said image data for formatting errors and comparing said customer account information with local customer information records for account errors, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to re-transmit said image data and said customer account information if one of said formatting errors and said account errors are detected.

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